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The Advocate, February 11, 2010

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Recommended Citation

Minnesota State University Moorhead, "The Advocate, February 11, 2010" (2010). *The Advocate*. 222.
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The Advocate

An award-winning newspaper published weekly for the Minnesota State University Moorhead community. Available online at www.mnstate.edu/advocate

Administration optimistic in hard economic times Separation incentives, banded tuition and name change being discussed



SZYMANSKI

BY MICHAEL SMITH
Assistant Editor

Taking office on the verge of country-wide economic hardship is not an easy task. Since July 1, 2008, this has been the challenge taken on by MSUM

President Edna Szymanski.

"In September of 2008 we put on a hiring freeze and have had one ever since," said Jean Hollaar, Interim VP of Finance and Administrative Services.

"The reason is, when I came (into office), I discovered that we were out of balance," Szymanski said. "We put on a hiring freeze before any of the other state universities did and we used the early-separation incentives before anyone else."

We have been far more proactive "doing the hard work last year that many institutions are doing this year," Szymanski said.

The early detection of problems and the quick adjust-

ments have put MSUM back on track.

"We are actually doing better than most of the state universities right now," Szymanski said. "As long as we keep our cost-recovery issues reasonable and as long as we keep tight fiscal control."

Early retirement incentives may put unwanted stress on certain departments but "the alternative is what (Minnesota State University) Mankato is going through," Szymanski said.

Times are also rough for the students who have stepped up and helped the university by filling some of the vacant positions.

"We are using more student help than we have in

the past," Szymanski said. "We are not going to go and just hire replacements. That's not going to help us do what we need to, which is have fewer faculty and staff serving slightly more students."

"We are not replacing positions with students," Hollaar said. "We're still working through the transition from having those people separate, to our new normal."

Trying to bring in funding has led to the conversation about a name change and the implementation of banded tuition. Both are in their early stages.

"We have seen a significant increase in credit-taking patterns of freshmen and sophomores," Szymanski said. "This

is exactly what we were looking for."

The name change discussion has not moved forward in the last couple months, but "one of the things that I'm trying to look at is, if we can use our current name and 'Moorhead State' as a nickname," Szymanski said. "(Minnesota State Community and Technical College) has 'M-State' as a nickname, there is no reason we can't have 'Moorhead State' as our nickname."

Through all the hardships and the unknown, "we believe we'll get through the difficult fiscal time," Szymanski said.

Smith can be reached at smithmi@mnstate.edu

Financial aid office to help with taxes

BY ANDREW JASON
Staff Writer

Everyone knows that the only certain things in life are death and taxes. While hopefully most won't have to deal with one of these this year, the other is unavoidable.

Sara Hartwig, the assistant director for the office

of scholarship and financial aid, wants to help students save money by avoiding the unnecessary costs that come with taxes.

"Every year students go to tax preparers and they're overcharged," Hartwig said. "A lot of these students don't have a lot of income to begin with."

Many free services are out there for people who know where to look. On the IRS Web site, free sites are listed where you can electronically file taxes. Students can type in their information and they will be guided to a Web site that suits their need.

Another option is Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, a program that, according to its Web site, provides free income tax preparation assistance to low-income, elderly, disabled and limited English-speaking people. Volunteers will answer any questions about taxes until April 15 at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Moorhead on Mondays or the Hjerkomst Center on Thursdays 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Volunteers also meet at certain locations in Fargo.

Students need to act quickly though, to be sure to meet the Feb. 15 priority date to be considered first for work-study, a Perkins loan or a Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant.

MSUM gives higher priority to students seeking cer-

tain types of scholarships if their taxes are completed before this deadline.

Many students that don't work will not have to pay taxes. There are many situations that exempt you from having to pay taxes.

According to Hartwig, if a student is claimed as a dependent on someone else's return, like a parent, they are generally not required to file a tax return unless their income was over \$7,100. However, if they are not claimed as a dependent on someone's return then they are required to file a tax return only if their income was over \$9,350.

Doing your taxes yourself is becoming the popular choice among many people. Even students are finding it easier to file their own taxes.

"With the technology and services available today it's easy enough to do it yourself," MSUM junior Bre Anderson says.

Jason can be reached at jasonan@mnstate.edu

Documentary photo work displayed

BY CHARLY HALEY
Staff Writer

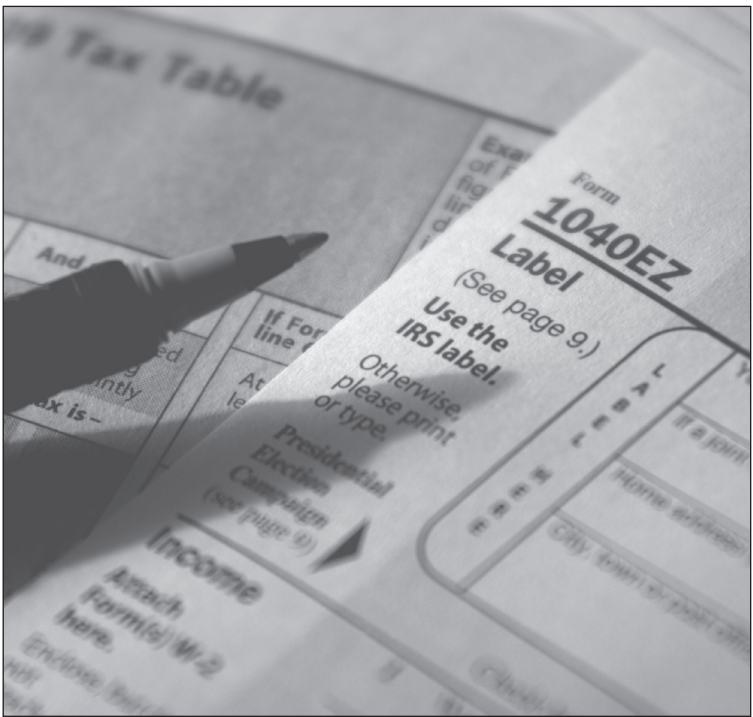
Throughout the month of February, there will be a collection of photography books displayed across from the help desk in the entryway of the MSUM Livingston Lord library.

These books were created by students from the fall 2009 documentary photography class (MC 430). The class was taught by photography professor Wayne Gudmundson.

Gudmundson explained that this is the first time that he has had the class design books to be printed.

"Normally, the students do a group exhibit," he said. "It turned out so well that everyone is really excited to do it again. Next year I'll do an exhibit in the fall and books in the spring."

The documentary photography books each focus on a specific subject. Examples of these include a book on PHOTO, BACK PAGE



NATHAN BERGESON / THE ADVOCATE

2010-2011 FAFSA

Beginning Jan. 1, you can reapply for financial aid for the 2010-2011 academic year, using FAFSA on the Web at www.fafsa.gov.

Your application should be completed as soon as possible in order to receive maximum consideration for all aid programs (work study, Federal SEOG and Perkins Loan). The priority date to submit the FAFSA is Feb. 15.

Habitat for Humanity spring break tour

Habitat for Humanity will travel to Connecticut, Louisiana, Arizona, Florida and Washington to volunteer during spring break

During March 12-21, the group will help families in need of simple, decent and affordable homes.

Currently, Habit for Humanity is seeking dedicated students to join the organization and help us reach out all across the

United States.

The trip is an inexpensive and safe way for college students to spend their break, and the rewards are endless.

Habitat for Humanity International is an ecumenical Christian ministry that welcomes to its work all people dedicated to the cause of eliminating poverty housing.

Since its founding in 1976, Habitat has built, rehabilitated, repaired or improved more than 350,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 1.75 million people.

For more information, to donate or volunteer, visit www.habitat.org.

Pay It Forward Tour

The STLF Pay It Forward Tour is a multi-day, multi-city service trips for college students. Register today, and you will be in store for an incredible experience with amazing people.

All Pay It Forward Tours are open to students from any school. Registration can be found at www.stlf.net

The spring break tour runs Mar. 12-20.

Email STLF at msumstlf@gmail.com

Meetings are at 9 p.m. on Mondays in CMU 203.

DragonFrost

The last days of DragonFrost allow the MSUM community to have some fun and chase away the winter blues.

Events are organized by the Homecoming/DragonFrost committee and the Office of Student Activities.

Today’s activities include a trivia challenge in the CMU Main Lounge 12-1 p.m. and a formal dance in the CMU Ballroom 9 p.m.-1 a.m. \$3-single and \$5-couple.

Friday’s activities include

Women’s Basketball vs. Bemidji State at 6 p.m. and Men’s Basketball vs. Bemidji State at 8 p.m. The Snow Court Coronation will take place during the halftime of Men’s game.

Check out the DragonFrost Web site to vote for royalty, register for competitions and get all the details you need to join in the fun: www.mnstate.edu/dragonfrost.

Cherry Pie Supper

The First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead will be hosting its annual Cherry Pie Supper on Feb. 20 4-8 p.m. at 2900 5th Street S in Moorhead. The ticket cost \$9 for ages 11 and up and \$4 for ages 10 and under (\$9.50 and \$4.50 at the door).

The Cherry Pie Supper is an all-you-can-eat ham dinner with the fixings, topped off with a delicious homemade cherry pie for dessert. To go orders are also available.

To purchase tickets, call 218.233.1192.

Reserve housing

Re-contracting will take place at the Housing Office in Ballard Hall 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Jan. 25-Feb. 9.

A \$250 prepayment and contract are required for each resident at the time of sign-up.

The 2010-2011 Housing and Dining contract is for the entire academic year; by signing you are liable for the terms of the contract.

See the “Plan Now to Live on Campus Next Year” brochure for more information. You will receive the brochure in your mailbox or you can pick one up at the Housing Office.

Contact the Housing and Residential Life Office with questions at 218.477.2118 or reslife@mnstate.edu.



SECURITY UPDATE

Director of Campus Security Michael Parks

BY LESLIE WOOD
Features Editor

Lamppost damaged

A lamppost between Grantham and Snarr was found damaged at 6:47 p.m. on Jan. 30. The cover to the lamppost was on the ground and the bulb was shattered.

Loud with alcohol

A noise violation turned into alcohol offenses at 2:52 a.m. on Jan. 31. A security officer was patrolling the third floor of South Snarr when he heard loud noises coming from one of the rooms. The officer found alcohol in the room and contacted the Moorhead Police Department. The three students were cited for alcohol consumption and referred to judicial affairs.

Alcohol found

Security discovered alcohol in a vehicle parked in Lot S at 12:12 p.m. on Feb. 3. The alcohol was in open view inside the vehicle. The student was referred to campus judicial affairs for alcohol offense.

One-way accident

There was a motor vehicle accident on Sixth Avenue and 11th Street South at 12:18 p.m. on Feb. 4. There was damage done to a campus lamppost when two vehicles collided on the one-way street. One of the drivers did not realize that he

was driving on a one-way street, which resulted in clipping the other vehicle. The Moorhead Police Department arrived to obtain information and detail the incident.

Vehicle accident

There was a motor vehicle accident in an entrance to Lot N at 1:20 p.m. on Feb. 4. The driver had not seen the other vehicle going south on 17th Street, which resulted in the two vehicles colliding. The Moorhead Police Department arrived on the scene to make a report of the accident.

Sick in the dorms

A security officer was notified of a male student vomiting on the eighth floor of Nelson at 4:32 a.m. on Feb. 7. The student was vomiting due to intoxication.

The paramedics and the Moorhead Police Department were contacted. The student received a minor in consumption by MPD and was referred to judicial affairs for alcohol offenses.

Parking tip

Students, faculty and staff member are allowed a courtesy of one jump-start per semester on MSUM property. With the cold weather expected for this weekend, please prepare your car by running it every day or two.

Advocate meetings

4 p.m. Mondays in CMU 110

The Advocate would like to invite any interested students to its weekly meetings in The Advocate office. Pick up an application today and apply to be a sports writer, staff writer, cartoonist or photographer. Photographer meetings are at 4:30 p.m.

The Advocate

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The Advocate is published weekly during the academic year, except during final examination and vacation periods. Opinions expressed in The Advocate are not necessarily those of the college administration, faculty or student body.

The Advocate encourages letters to the editor and your turn submissions. They should be typed and must include the writer’s name, signature, address, phone number, year in school or occupation and any affiliations. Letters are due by 5 p.m. Monday and can be sent to MSUM Box 130, dropped off at The Advocate office in CMU Room 110 or e-mailed to us at advocate@mnstate.edu. The Advocate reserves the right to edit letters and refuse publication of letters omitting requested information. It does not guarantee the publication of any letter.

The Advocate is prepared for publication by Minnesota State University Moorhead students and is printed by Davon Press, West Fargo, N.D.

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The Advocate is always looking for talented writers, photographers, columnists and illustrators. Meetings are held at 4 p.m. every Monday in CMU 110. Contact the editor for more information or come to the staff meetings.

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MON	Bucket of 4 Domestic Beers . . . \$7.50 Ladies Night <i>Martinis</i> \$3.50
TUE	1/2 Price Bottles of Wine \$5 HAMBURGERS
WED	Pitchers \$3.95 (Amber Bock, Bud, Bud Light, Foster’s, Miller Lite) FREE PEANUTS
THU	22 oz. Grande Beers \$1.95 (Amber Bock, Bud, Bud Light, Foster’s, Miller Lite) Sam Adams and Blue Moon \$2.95
FRI	Pitchers \$4.75 (Amber Bock, Bud, Bud Light, Miller Lite) After hours 9 p.m.-2 a.m.
SAT	Bloody Marys \$1.75 12 oz. draws \$1.25 22 oz. draws \$1.95 60 oz. pitchers \$3.95 (Amber Bock, Bud, Bud Light, Miller Lite) BURGERS \$1.00 OFF 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
SUN	Endless bowl of Chili \$3.95 Grande Beers \$1.95 Bloody Mary Bar \$3 Rails \$4 Calls 12 p.m.-4:30 p.m. 1/2 Price Appetizers* 7 p.m.-10 p.m. <i>*excludes shrimp cocktail</i>

The Hap		
Feb. 11	All day 7 p.m. 9 p.m.-1 a.m.	Swimming&DivingatArvada,Col. Wrestling vs. Augustana DragonFrost Dance
Feb. 12	All day 6 p.m. 8 p.m. 9 p.m.-1 a.m.	Swimming&DivingatArvada,Col. Women’s Basketball vs. U of MN Duluth Men’s Basketball vs. U of MN Duluth Dragons After Dark, Nemzek Hall
Feb. 13	All day 5 p.m. 6 p.m. 8 p.m.	Swimming&DivingatArvada,Col. Indoor Track & Field at Bison Open Women’s Basketball vs. Bemidji Sate Men’s Basketball vs. Bemidji State
Feb. 14	2 p.m.	Indoor Track & Field at Aberdeen, S.D./NSIC Multi Champs
Feb. 15	10 a.m.	Indoor Track & Field at Aberdeen, S.D./NSIC Multi Champs
Feb. 16	3:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Emerging Leaders, CMU 227 University Symphony Orchestra, Festival Concert Hall, NDSU

V-Day event inspires female empowerment

BY KAYLEE OSOWSKI
Staff Writer

Romance, passion and love are going to be on the minds of many this V-Day. Others will be thinking about vaginas.

“The Vagina Monologues” will be taking place this Saturday at 9 p.m.

“The Vagina Monologues” are based on a series of interviews about women’s struggles and triumphs. The interviews were conducted by Eve Ensler, V-Day Organization founder. The organization educates and supports women from all over the world. It raises awareness of violence against women and other issues that women face. The organization works to help women to be victorious in the fight for their rights.

Working toward ending the violence, Ensler put the interviews into monologues to be performed on stage. The monologues are a way to give the women who experienced these tribulations a voice. The stories are raw, emotional and inspirational, and tell about rape, genital mutilation, sex, masturbation, sexual orientation, orgasms and menstruation, along with other issues

women have experienced.

There were about 50 MSUM women who tried out for “The Vagina Monologues.” Everyone was given a part.

“Even the smallest part makes a big difference because of what it stands for,” Amanda Cashman said. Her part in the performance is to inform the audience about the clitoris and how it is purely for pleasure.

Information about try-outs for this year’s performance was posted on the theater’s callboard and sent out through campus e-mail. Cashman said that MSUM women who are interested in being a part of the monologue in the future should definitely try it. She described it as a little wild, a lot of fun and exciting while taking part in a great cause.

Watching the performance can be wild too. Cashman said that she has laughed and cried during performances. The shows impressed her as well as inspired her, she knew she would become involved.

“It makes me really proud to be a woman,” Cashman said. “It also makes me feel really good that there are people in the world trying really hard to put on plays



and get active about women’s rights...while thinking of creative ways to raise money.”

Much of the money raised by the production, being put on in the Hansen Theatre in the Roland Dille Center for the Arts, will given to the Rape and Abuse Crisis Center of Fargo-Moorhead. Representatives from the center will be available to give information about their services.

Representatives have been selling V-Day buttons all

week from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the CMU. Vagina lolipops and tickets for the show are also being sold there. Tickets are available at the MSUM box office as well. Single tickets are \$3 and couples can see the show for \$5.

Karla Underdahl, a director of “The Vagina Monologues,” hopes to sell out the show, but she said that there will probably be seating available if students come at show time.

Underdahl and Cashman both hope that the show will

not only entertain the audience, but also make them more aware of the issues that will be expressed in the monologues, by influencing audience members to get involved and help those in need.

Take a date, take your mom or a friend and celebrate V-Day by taking in a show about real women and their inspirational stories.

Osowski can be reached at osowskika@mnstate.edu

Love brings hope to stranger in need

Canton, Mass. Feb. 9 (AP)-

Thomas Wirt, a 69-year-old father and grandfather from Lewiston, Minn., knew he would die without receiving a lifesaving transplant very soon.

Cynthia Love, a 51 mother from Altamonte Springs, Fla., and a complete stranger to Wirt found him on the Internet—MatchingDonors.com—and she decided she would offer to be the person to save his life. Around Valentine’s Day, Love will meet and donate a kidney to him.

Wirt worked hard as a bookkeeper and a truck driver his entire life and he figured that in this time of his life that he could retire and enjoy life with his wife, kids and grandchildren, but now he can only think of how can he stay alive.

The current government waiting list for a kidney is seven to ten years long.

For months Wirt sought out family and friends to be living donors. Then he heard about MatchingDonors.com from a news article. MatchingDonors.com is the most successful nonprofit organization that is finding living altruistic donors for patients needing transplants. Patients on transplant lists

put their profiles on the website, and potential donors browse the site for a life they want to help save.

When Wirt put his profile on MatchingDonors.com he wrote: “I am a dad, husband and grandpa. I have worked as a bookkeeper and an over the road truck driver. I am now retired and now I do volunteer work in my community and church. I have polycystic kidney disease and need a kidney. I have started dialysis in October 2008. My father died from the same inherited disease and my only son who wanted to donate a kidney to me also has PKD. My wife would donate a kidney, but she has had breast cancer and is not a candidate. I do not drink or smoke and will take the best care possible of your kidney. Can you give me back my life? I now spend 12 or more hours a week attached to dialysis tubes.”

Within a few weeks, Love saw Wirt’s profile on MatchingDonors.com and decided she would contact him to see if she was a match to him.

Love wrote: “I am a 57 year old female in excellent health have a wonderful life and would like to donate to give someone else the oppor-

tunity to enjoy life. I am a non-smoker, non-drinker never seem to have time to slow down so maybe this is a good opportunity. Cheers and have a great day.”

Through the miracle of the Internet the two strangers met on MatchingDonors.com and after testing Love found out that she was a match for Wirt, and on Wednesday Love will save Wirt’s life by donating her kidney to him at Mayo Clinic, in Rochester, Minn.

This will be the 115th transplant surgery from a patient and altruistic donor that found each other on MatchingDonors.com.

“Patients are asked to pay a membership fee, but there is a sliding scale if they can’t afford it,” Dr. Jeremiah Lowney, one of the Web site founders said.

Since the inception of MatchingDonors.com, directed living organ donations have increased to historic numbers. MatchingDonors.

com is now the largest living donor database in the country.

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Make yourself count: participate in the census

If you've been in the CMU or around Kise Commons lately, you've probably seen students passing out clothe-pins with the Web site 2010census.gov on it. This Web site provides facts about the upcoming census.

Students have been pushing the idea of "making yourself count" because this year marks the newest U.S. census.

The census is taken every ten years, so don't miss your opportunity to be included.

The Advocate is running a series of four articles that explain the purpose and importance of the census, and it's worth checking out the reasoning behind this national event.

In March, census forms will be mailed to the homes of college students living off campus. If this is you, keep an eye out before you go off for spring break.

Everyone should be aware of the reasons why the census is around, and why it's relevant to our lives.

College students often feel underrepresented, so this census is a time to feel counted.

What college students are doing around campus is great. The census in itself is a giant undertaking; think about it, trying to count everyone in the U.S.

This is something that happens only once a decade, and will not be updated until then, so accurate data is important.

People who willingly participate can make this slightly easier.

Make sure all of your friends get their forms and fill them out. If you have friends who don't seem to care or want to do it, why not tell them why it's important?

Students should understand that accurate data means more accuracy in money given to all sorts of institutions. Make it a point to make sure everyone you know has filled them out accurately.

The more people in the area especially young people, the more funding will be appropriated.

It's often difficult to find reason to care about a cause that has only occurred two times during most students' lives, but as it is true during political races and other voting; staying informed can make or break one's decision.

So this year, stay informed and make yourself count along with the rest of the nation.

The opinions expressed in The Advocate are not necessarily those of the college administration, faculty or student body.

The Advocate encourages letters to the editor and your turn submissions. They should be typed and must include the writer's name, signature, address, phone number, year in school or occupation and any affiliations. Letters are due by 5 p.m.

Monday and can be sent to MSUM Box 130, dropped off in The Advocate office or e-mailed to advocate@mnstate.edu.



Illustration by Tate Mady / The Advocate

What are you here for?



Bin Valentine

Columnist

You know what's fun? Burning things is fun. You know what's even more fun? Burning money is even more fun. You get the satisfaction of watching something go up in smoke, as well as the bittersweet taste of destroying something valuable. The only thing that remains is the question, "Was it worth it?" All signs point to "no."

To all the students on the right track to graduate, pay no attention to this article. To all the students that aren't, read hard.

Repeating classes, academic probation, academic suspension, spending more than five years in a state college and etc; I continue to see my fellow students and friends fall into these pits. Everyone has their reasons for the things they do, and I'm not judging them even if they fail because of an intense personal issue. However, I am judging those who are lazy, those who don't care and those who just like to burn money.

What are you here to accomplish? Do you even know? They say the years you spend in college are the best years of your life, but from what I've seen of certain people, if these are the best I don't even want to imagine the rest.

Someone please tell me why it's so hard to do even a mediocre job, get Cs and at least continue on? What demands so much of your time that you need to spend another \$500 to retake a class or spend another

semester doing the same thing over again? One would figure playing video games, hanging out or smoking pot would only take so much of your day.

While I'm sure MSUM loves getting your cash every time you retake a course, I think your time would be better used serving me coffee because doing that would be more useful than anything you're doing here. If college is too much to handle for you right now, take a break! Don't be forced to take a break because you bombed half your classes. If you're falling behind, don't just fall! Get help for whatever you're having trouble with! There's no glory in getting defeated by paperwork. If you just don't care anymore, well, you don't need me to tell you what you don't care to hear; you've already decided what's not important.

College is a time of self-discovery, learning and training for your future career. It's an optional transitional period between your life as a student and your life as an adult. By all means fun should be had, but I implore you to remember what you're here for. The only question is, "What are you here for?"

Wondering why you're here?
E-mail Valentine
at valentbi@mnstate.edu

21/F/Moorhead



Holly Lavecchia

Columnist

The seriousness of how hard it is to meet people in college is a bizarre phenomenon. This is arguably the only time in life when you are engulfed by people your own age, and a large percentage of these people are romantically unattached.

One of the potential explanations for this illogical trend could be that after the buzz and excitement of freshman orientation has subsided, students quickly lapse into what I like to call, life. We're so busy playing in/falling into snow banks, accomplishing academic feats, spending time with the friends we already have, and just generally being self-involved to realize that at any given moment, we are all mere yards away from someone whose conversation would likely be an enjoyable addition to a cup of coffee.

Sadly, even more at a disadvantage are those students in certain majors that tend to be pretty homogenous, gender-wise. Even if you happen to be so unfortunate to never have a single class with a member of the opposite sex, there is no need to sulk on Valentine's Day.

Actively put yourself in situations where you will intermingle with new people. Spend some free time hanging out in the union with a friend and you'll likely meet some of his or her friends passing through. Join a campus organization, go to a sporting event, strike up a conversation with someone waiting in line at Copies Plus, tell random people random, friendly things like, "Did you know Feb. 12 is Abraham Lincoln's birthday!" or, "Dude, that's a totally sweet mullet." If you're really a beginner, simply making an effort to smile at passers-by can lead them to believe you are a pleasant, worthwhile person. This is a good thing.

As an advocate and veteran of the girl-asks-guy method, I need to make clear, it is not fool proof. It's best not to go into such a meeting with any expectations. Things may go wrong, such as a no-show, the other party seeming disinterested or way too interested in talking about himself, or maybe you spill food everywhere, go into anaphylactic shock, and a hodgepodge of Debbie downers and bloody noses. But you may end up having a great time chatting and laughing. In my opinion, the great time is worth all those other mediocre ones and maybe food stuck in your teeth.

It is widely underestimated how easy it is to invite someone to spend a little time with you. Worst Case Scenario: they say no and you survive. But the person you are approaching is hopefully also a human, which should make you less terrified. The rule to go by is, if you think you're a pretty awesome person, chances are, so will someone else.

Feeling awkward?
e-mail Lavecchia
at lavecchiaho@mnstate.edu

Are you a professor, student or faculty member
that has something to say?

Write a guest column for the opinion page
and get your voice heard.

Submissions can be 400-600 words.

e-mail submissions to the advocate@mnstate.edu.



Illustration by Tate Miady / The Advocate

Watch the Olympics

Every four years, athletes from around the world, and all different walks of life come together for the Winter Olympics. This year in Vancouver, Canada, more than 2,500 athletes from 97 countries compete for two weeks starting tomorrow.

I have always had a great love for the Olympics. By far my favorite event, other than figure skating and skiing, is the opening ceremony. It gives me great joy to watch as country after country come into the stadium to the cheers of the crowd, wearing their nation's colors; to see the alpine skier from Ghana who is the sole representation of his country; North and South Korea marching as one; the United States, where Minnesota has 21 athletes who will be competing, more than any other state in the U.S. (Minnesota Public Radio).

What makes the Olympics



Katelyn Wigmore

Columnist

beautiful is not winning gold, silver or bronze and being crowned "Olympic champion," but watching some of the best athletes in the world either make it or break it, and seeing athletes who would never have a chance come from behind to win.

I remember back in 2006 at the Torino Olympics watching Oliver Martin Crass, who became the first ever South African cross country skier to participate in the Nordic skiing, sprint from the starting gates and try to keep up with the top skiers in the world. It is amazing that for two weeks the world seems to stop and forget about

political differences and the tension between each other and just cheer on their country's athletes.

I encourage all of you to take some time off from your busy lives, and sit down and watch some events other than hockey or snowboarding. I mean, come on, how many times do you get to watch four people push large, heavy stones down the ice, trying to hit a target, while sweeping the ice frantically with brooms? (For those of you who are not from the upper-Midwest that sport is called Curling).

Got Olympics fever?
e-mail Wigmore
at wigmoreka@mnstate.edu

Have a question for Student Senate?

Interested about issues on campus but don't know who to ask? Submit your questions to Student Senate and see if they can answer them for you.

e-mail your questions to advocate@mnstate.edu for a response from Student Senate

Donate dress for Operation Hopes and Dreams

Q&A

BY ANNA GEORGE
A&E Editor

Remember those days when prom was all about the dress? Well, it still is for some, and you can help other prom-goers by donating your formal wear to Operation Hopes and Dreams.

This is the first year Operation Hopes and Dreams is being held, and founder, Elizabeth Waller hopes to make it an annual donation.

Why is it important to attend prom?

It is like nothing high school students have ever attended before. It is a celebration for them. These girls are leaving the world of being a child and entering the world of being an adult. It is a really a defining moment in their life and I think every girl should have the opportunity to go. It is a time when every girl can feel like a princess and have an amazing celebration with their friends.



ANNA GEORGE / THE ADVOCATE

Back, Kiley Franzoni and Alyssa Juelke; front, Bethany Hill and Desirae Demarco from South Snarr, model dresses that will be donated for Operation Hopes and Dreams. Donations can be made at any M.J. Capelli location in the F-M area.

How did the idea of donating dresses for girls in need come up?

Many of us have prom and bridesmaid dresses just sitting in our closets. I thought, why not put them to good use? There are a lot of girls out there that might not get to attend prom because they cannot afford it. Donating dresses is way they can go and have a great time.

Are there specific types of dresses you are looking for?

Basically, we are happy to take anything. We are hoping to get dresses from within the last five to ten years. Bridesmaids' dresses work great as well.

Can tuxes and accessories be brought in as well?

I would ask for any requests to donate items besides dresses to be e-mailed to me directly so I can arrange a time to come and get them. Due to space, we are not collecting accessory items.

When will the girls receive the donated dresses?

The dresses will be in the commons at Fargo South High School on Feb. 13, from noon

to 5 p.m. Any area senior can show up, with a school ID and pick out a dress. There will be a giveaway at the end where one girl will win a tux for her date, a limo ride to prom and a corsage.

Why should people donate their dresses?

The importance is giving someone the opportunity they might not have had without the kindness and generosity of people in the F-M area. We are not charging the girls for the dresses. They get them knowing that someone was kind enough to give up their dress to give them a chance to attend prom.

Dresses that are donated do not have to be cleaned prior to donation. The last day for this year's prom donation will be tomorrow at any M.J. Capelli.

M.J. Capelli was chosen for the donation drop off because of their many locations in the F-M area and previous community donations.

If you wish to donate after the deadline please e-mail Waller at ewaller@innov-

George can be reached at
Georgean@mnstate.edu

Dive 95.9 FM takes a fresh approach to rock

BY TAAREN HAAK
Copy Editor

There's a new radio station in town, folks—and it's perfectly poised to become the David to the Goliaths of Fargo-Moorhead's more commercial music options. Dive 95.9 FM officially launched Feb. 1 and is already gaining fans with its fresh approach to rock radio.

Dive 95.9 is the brainchild of Ben Larson, a Fargo native who recently returned to the area to launch the listening alternative. Larson prides himself on offering what he calls "underground pop," meaning that he plays the music that people are really buying and listening to, which might not be what is

normally played on the radio.

"It's all the bands that I think most of the people are listening to, actually on their iPods, versus the mainstream corporate sound where they're kind of buddy-buddy with the record labels," Larson said.

And Fargo-Moorhead residents are taking notice, as proven by the many positive e-mails Larson has received in the past month. Listeners can hear almost any genre of rock that they could think of, and Larson is always accepting requests.

Though still in its formative stages, Dive 95.9 already has a very specific mission statement: "to educate, inspire and entertain through positive programming that encourages creativity and social awareness in the local and global community, while playing some of the best music we can find."



TAAREN HAAK / THE ADVOCATE

Ben Larson, the man behind Dive 95.9 FM, hopes the station will become a significant part of the F-M area.

Larson wants the station to become a significant part of the Fargo-Moorhead community, and for the listeners to do likewise. He is already promoting volunteerism and goodwill by making fans work for their "free stuff."

Last week, in order to win tickets to The Used, listeners

had to arrive at a secret location with 10 cans of non-perishable food to be donated. The station is also featuring one charitable organization per month in regular radio spots. And soon, station swag will be awarded to listeners who donate their time to volunteer groups.

"I don't just want to give it away, because it's too easy," Larson said. "I think if we can encourage people to be in and a part of the community, it's kind of cool."

Larson has great dreams for the station. And with patience, listeners can expect to hear the realization of those dreams coming together day by day. For now though, Larson, who refers to himself as the "do-everything guy," and five others will spend their free time setting up equipment, recording liners, passing out flyers and getting the station name out to the public.

"We're rag-tag for sure,"

Larson said.

But if listeners hang in there, Larson hopes that the station will be fully functioning in about six months.

One thing fans may notice about the station is that there is something absent from its programming—commercials. As an LP (low power) station, Dive 95.9 is not allowed to have ads with a call to action, which can make it a little tricky to round up funds, but benefits the audience. That means that people in a 20-mile radius can listen to a great variety of rock with hardly any interruption.

"Let's be honest; everyone hates commercials," Larson said. "It just gets in the way of the music. So we're going to try and keep that to a minimum, keep the talking to a minimum. If we don't have anything to say or if it's not funny, then you probably won't hear it."

Larson also hopes to promote and play local artists, further encouraging community involvement in the station.

"The hope is that we can break down some of the traditions that old-school suit radio has done, and we can just be fun," Larson said. "We can actually get to know the listeners. We want to have barbecues with the listeners and hang out, instead of being stuck in a radio booth."

For more information, tune in to Dive 95.9 FM or visit www.dive95.com.

Haak can be reached at
haakta@mnstate.edu

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Violinist Midori listens to students performances

Advocate Staff Reports

Classical musician, Midori, will be at MSUM today, to hear three young violinists perform. The event takes place 9:45-11:15 a.m. on the Gaede Stage.

The three violinists performing for Midori are Bethany Moss, Sam Schoenwald and Amy Boese. These students auditioned for a place in the master class in November. After the performance, each student will receive feedback from Midori.

Midori started performing 25 years ago, at age 11, with the New York Philharmonic, under the direction of Zubin Mehta. At the show, she performed a challenging piece from Paganini's "Violin Concerto."

Three years later, Midori made a memorable debut with the Boston Symphony. During her piece, a string broke on her violin and she was quickly given the concertmaster's instrument. When another string broke, she grabbed a

violin of another orchestra member, all without missing a note. At the end of the piece, conductor and composer, Leonard Bernstein fell to his knees, as the audience and orchestra members applauded.

Midori performs as a soloist with the world's leading orchestras, headlining her own recitals and receiving critical acclaim for her recordings. She has also established several community-directed programs to address access to the arts. Midori believes it is an issue of crucial importance and people must have access to a variety of great music, regardless of their age, race, social class, geographic location or financial means.

The performance event is free and open to the public.

For event information contact Kirk Moss at 218.477.4099 or mosskirk@mnstate.edu.

For more information about Midori contact F-M Symphony Executive Director Linda Coates at 218.233.8397 or locoates@fmsymphony.org.

Valentine's Day Facts

* **188 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged annually in the U.S.**

* **Men spend almost twice as much on Valentine's Day as women do.**

* **In February 2006, jewelry stores in the U.S. sold \$2.6 billion worth of merchandise.**

* **According to the condom company Durex, condom sales are highest around Valentine's Day.**

* **904: The number of dating service establishments nationwide as of 2002.**

* **15 percent of U.S. women send themselves flowers on Valentine's Day.**

* **Hallmark produced its first valentine in 1913.**

Entertainment update

BY EVAN WICKER
Staff Writer

*Lady Antebellum's album "Need You Now" tops album charts this week.

*Ke\$ha continues to rule the Hot 100 with "Tik Tok."

*Michael Jackson's doctor has officially been charged with involuntary manslaughter.

* Will.I.Am will be redoing

Michael Jackson's "We are the World" for Haiti.

*Feb. 9 marked the beginning of Lil' Wayne's eight-to-ten month prison sentence for gun possession.

*Action packed "Avatar" was knocked off its box office pedestal by romantic movie "Dear John."

Wicker can be reached at
wickerev@mnstate.edu

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ALL TICKETS AVAILABLE AT www.JADEPRESENTS.com



SWIMMING AND DIVING

Swimming, Diving wraps up

Team ends season undefeated, looks forward to nationals

BY LOGAN GROSSMAN
Staff Writer

The MSUM Dragon swimming and diving team will be finishing their season in the next couple of weeks. Looking back on their season, head coach Todd Peters said that the team has performed well.

The team is currently 4-0 in duals and will be sending several athletes to the national tournament.

"We're almost done with the season," Peters said. "Our conference meet is next week already, and this is definitely the most important meet of the year for us. This is the chance for us to qualify for nationals. There would be no better way to end the season than with a win in the conference meet and adding more members to nationals."

Two of the top Dragons athletes have qualified for the national tournament, and Peters said he thinks they have done a standout job on the team this year.

"Ann Gusewelle has made it to nationals this year," Peters said. "She actually ranks second in the nation for the 100-yard breast stroke. Kayla Koenig has also qualified for nationals in the diving section."

In addition to being national qualifiers the two athletes were named Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference swimmer and diver of the week respectively.

The team's next meet is the conference tournament

Saturday in Arvada, Colo., and Peters said he has high hopes.

"Winning the conference meet is definitely the main team goal for us this year," he said. "We've known that this is a possible feat since the first week of competition. If we win this one, I feel like we can do anything. Once we've got that under our belts, we can swim fast, get into nationals, win awards—everything else will be easier."

In addition to out-swimming and diving the competition this year, the team is also at the top of the nation academically. The College Swimming Coaches Association of America placed MSUM at No. 13 on their list of the top-25 Division II Team Scholar All-Americans with an average team GPA of 3.27. This ranking places them second in the RMAC. Colorado School of Mines posted a GPA of 3.43.

Peters said that his team works hard but still has fun doing a sport they love.

"Seriously, even though we live in a colder state, we're still mainly surrounded by lakes, and swimming is a common activity," Peters said. "It's just a great way to stay in shape over the winter. While everyone else is huddled in the house, avoiding the cold, the swimmers are here working hard and doing what they love."

Grossman can be reached at grossmanlo@mnstate.edu



This week at Nemzek

Women's Basketball:

Bemidji State Friday, 6 p.m.

Duluth Saturday, 6 p.m.

Men's Basketball:

Bemidji State Friday, 8 p.m.

Duluth Saturday, 8 p.m.



Wrestling:

Augustana tonight, 7 p.m.

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Sports

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Looking to improve before conference tournament



CHRIS FRANZ / THE ADVOCATE

Senior Meghan Rettke (22) fights for an offensive rebound during the Dragons' 81-76 win against the Golden Eagles on Jan. 16.

BY TIM STULKEN
Sports Editor

As the Dragon women's basketball team progresses toward the end of their season, they look to the NSIC conference tournament.

In order to make it to the NSIC tournament, the team must maintain a league ranking of at least No. 8. Currently, the team is ranked No. 7 and must continue to improve in order to maintain a high ranking.

The Dragons split their games last weekend, beating Southwest Minnesota State 67-55 Saturday, and losing to MSU Mankato 53-73. The loss to Mankato ended a four-game winning streak.

Leading the team were seniors Alison Nash-Gerlach and Meghan Rettke. Nash-Gerlach had 38 points over the weekend and 14 rebounds, while Rettke had 27 points and 22 rebounds.

The Dragons return home after two weeks away to take on Bemidji State on Friday, and Minnesota Duluth on Saturday.

Friday's game against Bemidji State will be the Dragons' third annual Go Pink event. The event's goal is to raise money and awareness for breast cancer. There will be several activities associated with the event including a silent auction, a Dragon Fire raffle and during halftime the entertainment will be the Dragon Dance Team and the Dragon Frost royalty.

**Stulken can be reached
at stulketi@mnstate.edu**

NOTES FROM NEMZEK

Beat the Freeze event to be held

The Athletics Department, in conjunction with Nemzek Noize, is hosting an event they are calling "Beat the Freeze."

The Dragon basketball games on Saturday will host a series of events including a prize drawing for a \$50 gift card among everyone who comes dressed in summer or tropical attire, a contest for most weather-savvy costume and a contest for the most original or creative costume.

Come dressed in summer attire to the basketball games Saturday at Nemzek. The women's game starts at 6 p.m. and the men will tip off at 8 p.m.

Track and field sets record

The Dragon track and field team set many team and individual records at the Concordia Invitational Saturday.

The 4x200 meter relay team consisting of Percy Watson, Brock Keaton, Uchenna Ogonnaya and Aaron Lund ran their best time at 1:28.55 setting a school record as well as an Olson Forum Fieldhouse record.

The men took five more first place titles at the invite.

The women also saw success with five first place finishes. Anna VanWechel set a fieldhouse record as well, running 2:57.40 in the 1000 meter run.

The team continues its season this weekend traveling to compete in the NDSU Bison open on Saturday and the NSIC Multi Championships on Sunday in Aberdeen, S.D.

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Film project builds leadership, helps Haiti

BY CONOR HOLT
Staff Writer

Fargo-Moorhead will soon join the ranks of Paris and New York, thanks to a student project by five film students. In the vein of the films "Paris Je'Taime" and "New York, I Love You," the film students have constructed "I [heart] FM," a movie made up of short films which all deal with the topic of love.

"I [heart] FM" is a senior seminar project by five senior film students: Ashley Somphet, Haleigh Overseth, Eric Carlson, Andrew Neill, and Maxwell Heesch. The film is made up of short films submitted by MSUM students for the I [heart] FM Video Contest. All money raised through the contest is being donated

to the relief effort in Haiti.

The idea for the contest came from Ashley Somphet, who had seen "Paris Je'Taime," and liked the idea of creating a compilation film set in the Fargo-Moorhead area. Somphet was also inspired by the Fargo Film Festival's 2-minute film contest, where filmmakers create original and funny stories in a small amount of time. She told her group, and "we immediately liked the idea," said Neill.

Carlson, who designed the contest's Web site, had some prior experience in distributing and promoting films, including the Web series 3rd West Ballard. This contest presented a new challenge: collecting the work of a variety of

filmmakers and assembling them into one finished film.

The filmmakers who entered the contest had to make a short film less than 5 minutes in length, that was filmed in the Fargo-Moorhead area, and that dealt with the subject of love.

Film department chair Kyja Kristjansson-Nelson, who teaches the film department's senior seminar class, worked with the seniors to make this competition a reality. The point of the project was to get students involved with the community, as well as give the students "practical experience to give them leadership experience that would add to their resumes," Kristjansson-Nelson said.

Last week's Legacy Film Festival was another project from this class.

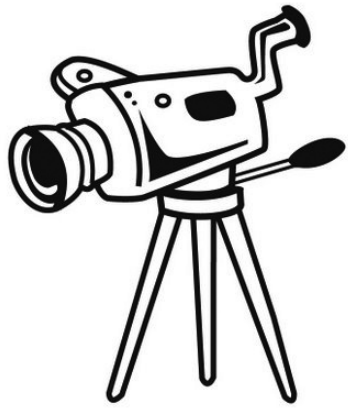
"I think it will be a fun event," Kristjansson-Nelson said. "I hope a lot of people will come."

The films will be screened at 2 p.m. on Sunday at Ecce Art + Yoga, owned by siblings Mark and Brenda Weiler, in downtown Fargo.

As the name suggests, Ecce Art + Yoga displays local, contemporary artwork, as well as providing yoga classes.

The film screening is part of the Heart of Downtown Festival in Fargo.

Everyone should come to the screening, because the finished film is "a quick collection of some pretty awesome movies," Carlson



said. The event is free, but donations are encouraged. "Come donate, eat free cookies, see good films," Somphet said.

For more information, go the "I [heart] FM" Web site at <http://iheartfm.com/>.

Holt can be reached at holtco@mnstate.edu

McGrath Writer's Series hosts first visiting writer

BY DEVIN BERGLUND
Staff Writer

On Monday the McGrath Writer's Series will be featuring the author Jane Jeong Trenka visit MSUM.

She will speak on the craft of writing at 4 p.m. and will also be doing a reading at 8 p.m. in CMU 101.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

She has written two books, "The Language of Blood" and her newest book, "Fugitive Visions," her memoir. She is also the co-editor of a book

called "Outsiders Within," an anthology on transracial and transnational adoption.

The McGrath Writer's Series brings emerging writers who have their first or second book out visit the campus for readings. They have also had Pulitzer Prize winning authors. This is the 24th year that MSUM has been inviting authors for the McGrath Writer's Series, they usually have about five to six writers visit in a year.

"I want to expose my writing students to a 'real' writer," said Thom Tammaro, director of the writer's series. "Because, for many students, this will be their first experience with a published author."

Tammaro would like to explore some other possibilities for the writer's series' 25th anniversary. He'd like to get some well-known authors in, as well as emerging authors.

The McGrath Writer's Series was formed to help writing students see real authors and learn from their technique and the



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The McGrath Writers Series will kick off at 8 p.m. on Monday in CMU 110 with author Jane Jeong Tranks..

things that they have gone through.

"I hope that it supplements the curriculum they are in and instead of just reading the literature they can listen to an accomplished, living and breathing author," Tammaro said.

Students can hear the visiting writers speak about their craft and in the long run they can become more appreciative readers.

Tammaro expressed his hope that students will also think about about writing something themselves after hearing published authors

read their work.

"It's another opportunity beyond the classroom," Tammaro said.

Visiting on March 13 is Rachel Coyne, author of "Whiskey Heart," which was published by MSUM's New Rivers Press. On April 15, Kristin Naca, author of a collection of poetry called "Bird Eating Bird," will be featured.

Berglund can be reached at berglunde@mnstate.edu

Black History Month

Advocate Staff Reports

February is Black History Month, and Multicultural Affairs is hosting events throughout the month to celebrate.

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. today, traditional New Orleans food will be served in Kise Commons. The menu will consist of jambalaya, fried okra, corn bread and peach cobbler.

Soul food like fried chicken and collar greens will also be served in Kise on Feb. 18.

On Feb. 19, a Pan-African Night will take place 6-9 p.m. The event will consist of dance performances, African food tasting, contests with prizes, full color dress and music that will introduce attendees to the African culture.

Following the Pan-African Night will be an after party in the Underground 9 p.m. to 12 a.m.

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Psychology professor honored by state

BY SADIE JONES
Staff Writer

Dr. Margaret (Peg) Potter, professor of psychology at MSUM, recently received recognition for her contributions to the school psychology program.

Potter received the Ysseldyke B.P. award at the Annual Minnesota Mid-Winter Conference held Jan. 21 and 22.

The award honors individuals who have contributed to the field of school psychology in the state of Minnesota.

Potter received the award for her services as a trainer of over 150 future school psychologists over the course of 23 years.

"I was surprised," Potter said about the award. "I didn't think I was old enough yet!"

A professor of psychology at MSUM since 1987, Potter has also been director of the school psychology program for the last 14 years. "(Being director) means some admin-

istrative duties as well as teaching duties," Potter said. "We also do field supervision of practicum and intern students."

Potter also teaches graduate courses within the school psychology program, as well as an undergraduate senior seminar class.

The MSUM school psychology program recently passed an extensive review process for the continuing approval of its specialist degree program, which is necessary to qualify for the National Association of School Psychologists approval.

"It's very important for our students because in Minnesota, to get licensed as a school psychologist, you need to have graduated from a NASP approved program," Potter said. "We have a strong program. We have strong faculty and we have the highest number of students that we've had in our program."

For anyone considering going into the field of school



LILLIE LAMBERT / THE ADVOCATE

Psychology professor Margaret Potter received an award for her dedication to the school of psychology

psychology, Potter had this to say: "School psychology is a blend of education and psychology. It's a program

for people who like working with kids, families, teachers and who are also interested in psychology in the broad

range. It's a great way to combine those interests."

Jones can be reached at jonesad@mnstate.edu

2010 U.S. Census benefits the community

BY MEGAN PROULX
Contributing Writer

The 2010 Census is your community's voice in government; it's a statement of which resources are needed for your community and our nation to move forward.

By filling out the census and sending it back, you are participating in a data collection that allocates over \$400 billion of federal funding to ensure a brighter tomorrow.

With an accurate count of those living in the Fargo-Moorhead community, federal funding will go toward education, transportation, public safety, emergency preparedness and disaster recovery, neighborhood improvements, public health and much more.

Data from the census also

affects Minnesota's congressional districts. An inaccurate count may lead to losing a seat. Census figures also help establish fair-market rents and enforce fair

lending practices, which is crucial to our large community of renters.

College and university students are key in increasing census participation

because of their hard-to-count status. Participation in the 2010 Census ensures our fair share of political representation for our academic community and educational

funding.

Census data informs important research done by college faculty, students, librarians and community leaders. This research is also important for future employees to understand where the next generation of workers is coming from, which will influence recruitment efforts.

The census is not only beneficial—it's mandatory. It's easy, important and confidential.

Ten questions and 10 minutes of your time can lead to \$10 million of funding toward our schools and community. Everyone counts.

Proulx can be reached at proulxme@mnstate.edu

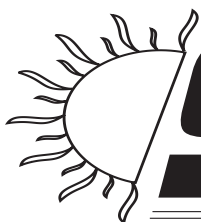
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PHOTO, FRONT PAGE

Converse shoes, one on tattoos and another on animal shelters. The students photographed for about 11 to 12 weeks, and then spent a lot of time editing. The books were printed through Blurb.com.

"I think when you see them you will be amazed," Gudmundson said. "They look really good. The print quality is pretty wonderful actually."

Gudmundson also expressed how the project can professionally benefit the stu-

dents involved, saying that the books are good to show for prospective jobs and internship opportunities.

The students who were in this class are: Cierra Abell, Lotus Awale, Katherine Cross, David Diebel, Lacey Finke, Christopher Franz, Kim Fuerstenberg, Taaren Haak, Kelly Johnson, Lillie Lambert, Amita Manandhar, Michael Readle, Heidi Shaffer, Lauren Taute and Jesse Trelstad.

Haley can be reached at haley.ch@mnstate.edu



CHRIS FRANZ / THE ADVOCATE

Fall 2009 graduate, Heidi Shaffer, and Documentary Photography professor, Wayne Gudmundson, work together editing photographs for the class's book project. The Documentary Photography class has work featured in the library.

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Ice cream social kicks off Dragonfrost events



NATHAN BERGESON / THE ADVOCATE

The CMU staff serves ice cream for Dragonfrost on Tuesday, Feb. 9. This was one of many events on campus for Dragonfrost. A trivia challenge will take place from noon to 1 p.m. today, in the CMU main lounge, followed by a formal dance from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. in the CMU Ballroom. On Friday, back to back basketball games will start at 6 p.m. in Nemzek. Coronation will take place at the halftime of the 8 p.m. men's game. The week will end with Dragons after Dark from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Friday in Nemzek Hall.

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